

## 2008 CHIP income guidelines



The chart below lists the income guidelines effective February 1, 2008.

Family Size (children & adults)	Family Income
2	\$24,500
3	\$30,800
4	\$37,100
5	\$43,400
6	\$49,700
7	\$56,000
8	\$62,300

## CHIP Extended Dental Plan a great success



CHIP's Extended Dental Program (EDP) was extremely successful. In fact, so successful, all the funding for this benefit year (Oct 1-Sept 30) was spent in just the first three months of the program.

The good news is 671 CHIP children with significant dental needs received additional dental care beyond the CHIP basic dental benefit.

CHIP cannot accept any new "Requests for Extended Dental Benefits" until June 2008 when additional funding becomes available.

CHIP's basic dental plan remains in effect for each CHIP covered child. That plan is limited to \$412 in billed charges per benefit year (Oct 1 – Sept 30).

## CHIP Champion Award



*From left: Lil Anderson, Chief Executive Officer; Barbara Schneeman, Communication & Advocacy Manager; and Judy Stewart, Director of Strategic Partnerships*

In April 2007, CHIP presented the CHIP Champion Award to the **Yellowstone City-County Health Department (YCCHD)**. This award is given to CHIP community partners who go the "extra mile" in helping families obtain health insurance for their children.

Yellowstone County has consistently reported high participation rates in CHIP thanks to the many and varied efforts of YCCHD staff. YCCHD works with hundreds of health care providers and community advocates to improve the lives of families in the greater Yellowstone County area.

Previous CHIP Champion Award winners include **JoHanna Spang** of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health Department and **Renita Watson** who works for Rocky Boy Tribal Health.

CHIP partners with health care providers and other community-based organizations all across Montana to spread the word about CHIP in their local communities.

If you would like to become a CHIP community partner or if you would like to nominate someone for the CHIP Champion Award, contact Michael Mahoney, CHIP Community Relations Manager, at 877-543-7669 or e-mail [mmahoney2@mt.gov](mailto:mmahoney2@mt.gov).



## CHIP quality assurance audit

Beginning November 2007, the Quality Assurance Division (QAD) of the Department of Public Health and Human Services will be conducting an audit of CHIP to make sure CHIP eligibility is correctly determined and medical expenses for CHIP children are correctly paid.

As part of the audit process, QAD staff will contact a number of randomly selected CHIP families and ask for documentation verifying the information stated on their CHIP application.

If your family is selected, it is important to provide all requested information in a timely manner so staff is able to accurately complete the audit. QAD may also access other resources such as Child Support Enforcement, Department of Labor and Industry, etc. in order to confirm application information.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Let us know



Please contact CHIP if any of the following changes occur in your household:

- ▶ Family moves out of Montana
- ▶ Family moves within Montana
- ▶ Child obtains health insurance from another source
- ▶ A child moves in or out of your home.

Call CHIP toll-free at 1-877-KidsNow (1-877-543-7669) and let us know. Thanks!

## CHIP resources

CHIP toll-free phone:  
**1-877-543-7669**  
(1-877 KidsNow)

CHIP toll-free fax:  
**1-877-418-4533**

CHIP website:  
**www.chip.mt.gov**

CHIP E-mail Address:  
**chip@mt.gov**

CHIP Mailing Address:  
**PO Box 202951**  
**Helena, MT 59620-2951**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of  
Montana:  
**1-800-447-7828, ext. 8647**



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## Be a CHIP champion!



It's easy. Simply tell a friend, family member, neighbor, or co-worker about the benefits of CHIP. Free or low-cost health coverage may only be a (toll-free) phone call or computer mouse-click away. Please help us spread the word about CHIP.

With new higher income guidelines and no waiting list, now is a great time for families to apply.

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Children's Health Insurance Plan  
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Winter/Spring 2008

# CHIPchat

Keeping CHIP families informed



## New CHIP income guidelines for 2008

CHIP announced new income guidelines effective February 1. Federal guidelines are revised each year to account for inflation and other cost-of-living adjustments.

CHIP updates and implements the new guidelines as soon as possible so more children can be eligible for CHIP.

For example, under the new guidelines, children from a family of four with an annual income of \$37,100 may be eligible for CHIP. That's \$962 more than last year.

This is in addition to the increase from 150% to 175% of the federal poverty guideline approved by the 2007 Legislature and Governor Brian Schweitzer which took effect in July 2007.

Families who earn more than the guidelines should still consider applying because additional income adjustments are made based on the number of family members who are employed and whether they pay for dependent care for a child or for a disabled or elderly adult.

The deductions are \$1,440 annually for each employed adult in the family and \$2,400 annually for each child or dependent adult receiving care.

*(The new CHIP income guidelines are listed inside.)*